For U.S. forces serving abroad

Stripes_{TM}



A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Thursday, April 9, 1998

Eight pages

Alabama tornado kills 18

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Rescue crews frantically searched through the rubble of homes for survivors today after a tornado ripped through town after town just outside Birmingham. At least 18 people were killed.

Hardest hit was Jefferson County, west of the city, with 16 dead and devastation in several tiny communities.

Leon Hyche lost his niece, Deb Helms, and her two sons, Colby, 8, and Carson, 4, in Wednesday night's storm. They were killed as they hid in their basement just down the street from him in Rock Creek.

"It's supposed to be the safest place," he said. "The whole wall collapsed on them."

Hyche said his niece's husband, Dave

Helms, was not home at the time.

"He's crushed," Hyche said. "He's lost everything."

More than 50 people were taken to Birmingham hospitals, where officials said many required surgery. At least two people were partially paralyzed and still others, at least six, were in critical condition.

In the glare of spotlights, bodies lying along the road could be seen in the early-morning dark in Rock Creek. Chain saws buzzed as searchers desperately tried to get to homes cut off by felled trees, overturned cars and the bricks and timber of ruined homes.

The Rock Creek Church of God was turned into a trauma center.

The powerful storm system, also

blamed for a tornado that killed a 16-year-old in northern Mississippi, sparked warnings an hour before sunset and then began a twisted, random trail of destruction two hours later, at 8 p.m.

Homes of wood and brick in Rock Creek were reduced to their foundations, with household appliances scattered across yards, limbs and power lines across streets. Ambulances had difficulty reaching the dead.

The tornado destroyed the home of Leon Harmon and left a boat atop his garage. He recalled how quickly it struck.

"I was sitting in the recliner and my daughter called my wife and said a tornado had touched down at Oak Grove," he said. "My wife ran into the bathroom. I started, but the roof caved in."

Some in Navy, Air Force balk at anthrax vaccine

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two sailors have been discharged from the Navy and 12 others given lighter punishments for balking at mandatory shots designed to protect against a potential attack of anthrax in the Persian Gulf.

Two airmen based in the region also have declined to take the shots and face disciplinary action, an Air Force spokesmen said Wednesday.

More than 15,000 servicemen and women in the region have begun the series of inoculations, military officials said. In December, Defense Secretary William Cohen ordered all 1.5 million men and women in the service to take the shots to protect against a biological warfare attack.

The inoculation program for the 37,000 U.S. troops in the Gulf began several weeks ago, since chances for an attack by Iraq was deemed highest there.

"The policy is, the shots are mandatory," said Pentagon spokesman Col. Richard Bridges.

"It's that simple. They don't have a choice if they want to wear a uniform."

The refusals appear to stem from a wariness about the drug, which is not experimental and has been used for decades.

Air Force spokesman Lt. Col. Chris Geisel said the two airmen who have refused to take the shots could face disciplinary action and their exact status is unclear at the moment.

Seven sailors each from the two aircraft carriers in the Gulf — the USS John C. Stennis and the USS Independence — appeared at "captain's mast" hearings where administrative punishments were handed out over the past several days. The two sailors who were discharged were on the Stennis, based in Norfolk, Va.

Marine claiming anti-semitism is accused of faking

By Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — The Marine Corps said Wednesday that a Marine claiming he deserted from the Aberdeen Proving Ground because of ethnic discrimination might have concocted that story as a way to get out of a military career with which he was disllusioned.

Pfc. Joshua Narins, 26, had told roommates, fellow soldiers and officers at Aberdeen that he was not adapting to military life and was looking for a way out, according to a preliminary investigation of Narins' harassment claims. Narins, who enlisted last May and was based at Aberdeen's weapons school, had gone absent without leave in mid-February after citing an ethnic slur written on the name plate on his barracks door. At a news conference in Baltimore Wednesday, Narins said that the slur — "kike gas em" - was the last in a series of harassments. He said someone had also flipped his bed and stolen his laundry.

Erroneous e-mail brings VA apology

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Minnesota veteran says he is sorry for sending a false message on the Internet saying veterans faced possible termination of benefits — a message that brought a strong denial from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Many veterans who either read the e-mailed message or heard about it thought they had to register at a local veteran's medical center by Oct. 1 or lose benefits forever. The message also claimed the VA was instructed by Congress to keep silent about the October deadline.

The e-mail was "factually incorrect," VA spokesman Gary Caruso said Wednesday. A revised VA health-care system requiring veterans to file for benefits does go into effect Oct. 1 but does not prevent unregistered veterans from receiving federal compensation, Caruso said. The sender, Thomas Todd of Minneapolis, is a "well-intentioned but misinformed veteran," Director of **Health Administration Kent Simonis** said. "He thought he was doing the right thing by warning people, but he really disrupted millions of people with this information." Todd, a former Navy man, contended he received the information from the American Legion.

GI getting medal for saving life in Germany

By Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — He heard a man scream, then saw a woman flailing in the choppy, murky waters of the Rhine River. Then he caught her eyes.

They "burned through to my soul and I knew I had to save her," said Cpl. Antony Metiz, a personnel clerk with the 3rd Corps Support Command.

So he galloped down the 28 concrete steps leading to the water, dove in and pulled the woman out, almost drowning himself in the process. Then he revived her with cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Today in Heidelberg, Metiz is scheduled to receive the Soldier's Medal for his efforts on June 17, 1996.

The medal, the Army's ninth-highest decoration, falls between the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star. Officials said it's awarded for heroism not involving actual conflict, and the performance must have involved person-

al danger and the voluntary risk of life.

Metiz wasn't put in for the award until June 1997 because his unit was deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Then it took some time to work its way through bureaucratic channels, even getting kicked back once for insufficient evidence.

"People who originally saw the package didn't realize how dangerous the water really was and what a feat Corporal Metiz accomplished," said Capt. Jeanne Bankart, a support command spokeswoman.

But the delay doesn't bother Metiz, a 5-foot-11-inch man who grew up in Hawaii swimming in the Pacific. Even with that background, the 181-pounder said he found it hard to fight the Rhine's power that day.

An afternoon swim wasn't on Metiz's agenda when he drove his cherry-red Suzuki Swift to an open lot adjacent to the river.

Clinton, Congress to push tobacco bill

WASHINGTON (AP)
— With or without the industry's cooperation, President Clinton and members of Congress say they will fight for legislation to force tobacco companies to pay billions of dollars to make up for practices that encourage teen-agers to smoke

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., whose Senate Commerce Committee approved a tobacco bill last week, scoffed at an assertion Wednesday by a tobacco company executive that much-touted national tobacco settlement between the industry and states was "dead."

"I think we're a long way from, quote, falling apart," said McCain, chief author of the Senate bill. "I am convinced that if the tobacco companies are not willing to go along with this agreement we will still act in the best interests of the American people."

Pol Pot's seizure tied to U.S. airlift

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Cambodia's Pol Pot could be captured if the Khmer Rouge leader crosses into Thailand but only if the United States guarantees it will immediately fly him to another country, a Thai military officer said today.

The Thai officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he was aware of a U.S. plan to help arrest Pol Pot and try him for his leadership of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime that caused the deaths of as many as 2 million Cambodians between 1975 and 1979.

Pol Pot's capture does not appear im-

minent. The Khmer Rouge faction holding him prisoner has regained territory lost after a mutiny flared two weeks ago and raised hopes he might be taken.

The New York Times reported today that President Clinton had ordered the Departments of Defense, State and Justice to prepare plans to arrest Pol Pot. Under one, Thailand would apprehend him on condition that the U.S. military remove him within hours.

U.S. intelligence officials cited by The Times said Thailand had captured Pol Pot last week but then freed him because it feared antagonizing China.

Stripes

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Dog 'bible' recalled as pet owners object

NEW YORK (AP) — The American Kennel Club is recalling the latest edition of its bible, The Complete Dog Book, after pet owners objected that some of the nation's most popular breeds were listed as not good with children.

Scotties, Dalmatians, Yorkshire terriers, Rottweilers, dachshunds and 35 other breeds were deemed unsuitable for kids in the recently released 19th edition of a book that has sold more than 2 million copies since 1929.

Within days of the new edition's release, breeders and owners complained that the new classifications were unfair and uninformed.

The Kennel Club quickly recalled the \$33 book and said it would be reissued. Sam Perry, a vice president and general counsel for the club, on Wednesday refused to discuss what revisions would be made.

The Chicago Tribune, however, re-

ported that the club was recalling the entire 30,000 first printing and eliminating the new feature that has caused the uproar: boxes that mark breeds as excellent, good or not good with children.

"The information certainly was not supplied by anyone who evidently knew what they were talking about,' said Patty Brooks of Strafford, Mo., whose husband, Fred, is a breeder and president of the Scottish Terriers Club of America.

The not-good-with-children list includes Chihuahuas, toy poodles and whippets, while breeds with more dangerous reputations, like the American pit bull, are listed as good with children.

Another problem is that the "not good" for children list is sometimes contradicted by the book's more detailed remarks about the dogs' temperament.

Bono's widow elected to fill seat

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP) — With memories of Sonny Bono still fresh, voters chose the Republican's young widow to finish his term in California's 44th Congressional District seat.

In a race watched closely by national party officials anxious to gain momentum for the fall, Mary Bono defeated Democrat Ralph Waite, the actor who portraved the father on television's The Waltons, and four other candidates seeking the office Bono had held since 1995. It became vacant when he died Jan. 5 in a skiing accident near Lake Tahoe.

Mrs. Bono had 50,841 votes or 64 percent compared with Waite's 22,787 votes or 29 percent, according to final, unofficial after the polls closed.

returns. No other candidate had more than 3 percent. Mrs. Bono, 36, a college graduate who ran a restaurant with her husband before focusing most of her attention on raising their children, describes herself as a "mainstream conservative." She declared victory two hours

easy in Senate OK for expanded NATO looks

By Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — After one of Congress' most curious and unusual debates on a major international issue, President Clinton's signature foreign policy initiative - enlarging NATO - seems headed for easy Senate ratification later this

That is, if senators ever get around to

Confused efforts to shoehorn the final

hours of discussion on expanding NATO into gaps in a floor debate on education last month reflected the fact that the issue, although enormously important for the United States, has barely raised the average American's eyebrow.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., eventually suspended the embarrassing on-again, off-again debate, saying he would try again later - most likely when the Senate returns from spring

recess. A widely expected yes vote in the Senate would effectively approve the extension of America's most enduring military alliance — and the U.S. defense burden - hundreds of miles eastward in Europe to include three new countries: Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The pros and cons of expanding the Atlantic Alliance have been hotly discussed among the country's blue-suited foreign policy elite.

Coast Guard cutter hazing is uncovered

BOSTON (AP) — Ten crew members of a Coast Guard cutter were disciplined for hazing or allowing the hazing of new recruits, some of whom were beaten, given "pink bellies" or covered with condiments.

The disciplined crew members, ranging from seaman to lieutenant junior grade, had their rank reduced, pay taken away or shore privileges restricted. Another seaman aboard the Boston-based Spencer is facing discharge from the Coast Guard.

"We're professionals always looking out for other people and in this case we weren't looking out for our own," Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Cmdr. John Fitzgerald said Wednesday.

The investigation began after an apprentice seaman told a Coast Guard lawyer that he was held down and beaten on the Spencer last November.

"This investigation uncovered an unhealthy climate within the Spencer Deck Department," Vice Adm. Roger T. Rufe Jr., commander of the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area, wrote in the report. "This climate developed and was allowed to continue due to a failure of leadership."

About 25 of the 100-member crew are in the deck department, which is responsible for rescues and standing watch.

The 270-foot Spencer is one of 28 large cutters patrolling U.S. territorial waters. Duties include search and rescue, drug interdiction and enforcement of fishing regulations.

The investigation found that crew members were subjected to hazing-type rituals.

POW museum in Georgia tribute to forgotten heroes

ANDERSONVILLE, Ga. (AP) — Fifty-six years after American soldiers began the Bataan Death March, the United States prepared to salute its prisoners of war with a new museum at the site of an infamous Civil War prison camp.

The dedication today of the National Prisoner of War Museum was a long time coming for those who sometimes felt neglected or underappreciated over the years.

"This memorial is a dream finally come true for these forgotten heroes of American history," said Fred Boyles, superintendent of the Andersonville National Historic Site, where the museum is located.

Andersonville, in rural southwest Georgia, is the site of the Confederate camp where Union soldiers were held in harsh, disease-ridden conditions during the Civil War. Nearly 13,000 soldiers died at the camp.

The dedication was scheduled for the

anniversary of the beginning of the Bataan march. Some 16,000 American and Filipino troops died on the 70-mile trek to a Japanese prison camp in the Philippines, which was then a U.S. colony.

The 10,000-square-foot museum combines interactive exhibits, videotaped interviews, narrated letters, photos and memorabilia preserved from the estimated 800,000 Americans who have been held prisoner in wars beginning with the American Revolution.

The exhibits emphasize the links between prisoners over the ages and trace the different aspects of captivity, including torture.

The museum, which also includes a library for researchers, features a 27-minute documentary film narrated by retired Gen. Colin Powell. It has a cement cross built by World War II POWs to commemorate their dead in the Philippines.

Wrong corpse displayed at wake

NEW YORK (AP) — Detectives rushed to a funeral home where a wake was being held for a teenage runaway and told the parents what authorities had just learned: the girl they were preparing to bury was not their daughter.

Now police have a double mystery on their hands: Where is Chante Smalls, the 16-year-old girl who ran away from a group home, and whose body was at the wake?

Deputy Chief Al Materasso, commanding officer of the Bronx Detective Borough, said Wednesday that investigators received information from confidential sources that the body at the wake was not Chante's.

Investigators learned Tuesday that Chante used the name Kim Green when she was arrested for loitering within the last six weeks — after the other girl was found strangled, he said.

Police checked the fingerprints taken when Chante was arrested against those of the other girl.

They did not match, and officers went to the Bronx funeral home where the wake was being held.

"Detectives gave this information to the family. Then, after the family members viewed the deceased person, they determined it wasn't Chante," Materasso said.

The body was taken back to the morgue.

Anniversary of Holocaust is observed

SCARSDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Pepi Deutsch turns 100 in June but she looks barely 80, still carrying off the youthfulness that saved her from the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

When Mrs. Deutsch and her teen-age daughter arrived at the concentration camp in 1944 in a cattle car packed with Hungarian Jews, the Nazis assigned both to a group of young women put to hard labor. Other women Mrs. Deutsch's age were gassed.

"God helped me," she says with a faith that remains unshaken. "He wanted me to be with my daughter, to help her."

The daughter, Clara Knopfler, now 71, says she survived only by having her mother with her: "She saved my life many times."

Mrs. Deutsch was honored Wednesday night as one of the nation's oldest living Holocaust survivors. The ceremony at Manhattanville College in Purchase, which also honored Mrs. Knopfler, is part of the Westchester Holocaust Commission's observance of Yom Hashoah, April 23, the Jewish commemoration of the liberation of the concentration camps.

With her daughter at her side, Mrs. Deutsch lit a tall candle, then pulled a shawl over her head and recited a prayer in Hebrew before a hushed crowd of 300. Her daughter thanked her for "giving me the love and supporting me in my life."

Therapist claims he lied about mercy killings

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A former hospital worker who told police he hastened the deaths of up to 50 patients says he made the story up in hopes of getting the death penalty because he couldn't muster the courage to kill himself.

"I wanted the system to do to me what I couldn't do to me," Efren Saldivar, 28, told the ABC-TV news show 20/20, according to a network news release

Wednesday. "I was looking to die, ... but I didn't have the courage."

No charges have been filed and Saldivar remains free, but police have opened a wide-ranging investigation to find evidence to corroborate his original claim that he killed patients at Glendale Adventist Medical Center over several years.

"I figured, you know, one death isn't

gonna be enough for the death penalty so I said two," the respiratory therapist said in the 20/20 interview to be aired Friday. "There was two patients. And then I started to cry because I was ending my life. ... I was ending everything else, finally doing it."

Saldivar said he had taken Valium, an anti-anxiety medication, before the police interrogation.

'Hanoi Hannah' still smooth

By Los Angeles Times

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam — Her voice was as smooth as silk, her English impeccable, and as North Vietnam's premier propagandist, "Hanoi Hannah" tried to convince GIs they were fighting an immoral war that America had turned against.

For eight years, the GIs tuned in to her daily radio broadcasts in Godforsaken outposts with names like the Rockpile, Ben Het and Con Thien. Although virtually no one took her seriously, they did wonder if she was as lovely as she sounded, and many considered her Hanoi's most prominent Communist after Ho Chi Minh.

Hearing this today, 67-year-old Hanoi Hannah — whose real name is Trinh Thi Ngo — giggles, feigning surprise. "Oh, my," she says. "I wasn't a celebrity. I did love that time in Hanoi, but I was just an ordinary citizen trying to contribute to

my country."

Petite and, yes, lovely, Ngo did the last of her 30-minute broadcasts in 1973, when the bulk of the U.S. military withdrew. She moved to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) in 1975 with her husband, an engineer now retired. They live in a modest three-bedroom apartment, near the former Presidential Palace she used to call the "den of puppets," and listen faithfully to newscasts on the Voice of America.

Although she earned a First-Class Resistance Medal for her work and still does occasional translation and voice-overs for the Voice of Vietnam, Ngo has slipped quietly into anonymity, surrounded by young Vietnamese who have never heard of the Rockpile, much less Hanoi Hannah

"This is Thu Huong calling American servicemen in South Vietnam," her daily broadcast would begin, using an alias that translates as Autumn Fragrance. Then she'd play a melancholy song ("Where Have All the Flowers Gone" was a favorite), read news of anti-war protests back in America and, on Fridays, recite the names of Americans killed in action from the U.S. military newspaper Stars and Stripes.

"My goal was to tell GIs they shouldn't participate in a war that wasn't theirs," she says now. "I tried to be friendly and convincing. I didn't want to be shrill or aggressive. For instance, I referred to the Americans as the adversary. I never called them the enemy."

Her scripts were written by propagandists in the North Vietnamese army who lifted their material from articles in Time, Newsweek and The New York Times that North Vietnamese diplomats abroad had sent home. Sometimes members of the anti-war movement brought the articles to Hanoi.

Ex-U.K. POWs hold protest at Japan embassy

LONDON (AP) — Former British prisoners of war marched to Japan's embassy in London on Wednesday to demand an apology and compensation for atrocities committed during World War II.

A dozen British veterans handed a letter to the Japanese ambassador demanding that Japan admit guilt for what they called "immoral and inhuman" treatment.

Members of the Association of British Civilian Internees-Far East Region say they were starved and forced by Japanese soldiers to work under slave-like conditions in prison camps. The group also vowed to continue pressing their views in the weeks before Japanese Emperor Akihito's visit to Britain next month. Japan forced war prisoners to work in shipyards, mines and jungles in violation of international law. Prisoners were also beaten and some were executed. The death rate of POWs at the Japanese camps was 27%, compared with 4% at allied camps.

Hot game in Bosnia: where in the world is Karadzic?

By New York Times

PALE, Bosnia and Herzegovina — Dr. Radovan Karadzic, Bosnia's wartime political leader who has roamed freely since being indicted on warcrimes charges in 1995, is under pressure from NATO forces and appears to have left his headquarters here. But how far he has gone is a matter of debate.

Officials in Washington say they believe he has remained in the region. Senior Western officials in Bosnia say he may have traveled further.

"He may have just left Pale temporarily," said Carlos Westendorp, the top international official in charge of putting into effect the current peace agreement in Bosnia. "If I were him," Westendorp said, "I wouldn't stay in Pale."

But senior U.S. and

British officials in Washington said that Karadzic remained "in the Pale area" to the best of their knowledge, and that "he's gone to ground, but not fled" the Bosnian Serb republic.

"He may end up fleeing," one senior U.S. official said. "But he hasn't yet."

The Washington officials said he had stayed in various towns, including Montenegro, Belgrade and a bunker at Han Pijesak, where his military counterpart, Gen. Ratko Mladic, has often stayed.

"The evidence is that he's getting jittery," a senior official in Washington said.

The reports about Karadzic coincide with the arrests Wednesday of two other Bosnian Serb war-crimes suspects by NATO peacekeepers and follow an unannounced inspection here last week by several hundred NATO troops accompanied by tanks and armored personnel carriers. They inspected a police unit based in a factory where Karadzic has an office and confiscated 10 rifles and 1,500 rounds of ammunition.

The two Bosnian Serbs, arrested in Prijedor by NATO-led forces in Bosnia, were Miroslav Kvocka and Mladen Radic, close allies of Karadzic in the war.

They are charged by the war-crimes tribunal with running a detention camp in the Bosnian town of Omarska, outside Prijedor. Many prisoners, who included Muslim and Croat leaders and intellectuals, were taken from the camp and executed, their bodies dumped down nearby mine shafts.

Plasmatics lead singer Wendy O. Williams dies

By Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Wendy O. Williams, whose stage theatrics as lead singer of the punk band The Plasmatics included blowing up equipment and chain-sawing guitars, has committed suicide. She was 48.

Williams' former manager and longtime companion Rod Swenson said he discovered her body

Monday in a wooded area near their home. The state medical examiner said Williams died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Faces
'n'
places

Swenson said Williams

had been despondent for some time.

Williams, dubbed the "queen of shock rock," sported a trademark Mohawk haircut and was nominated in 1985 for a Grammy in the best Female Rock Vocal category during the height of the band's popularity.

A native of Webster, N.Y., Williams with her on-stage antics quickly attracted a following for the Plasmatics, who debuted in New York City clubs in 1978

Police in Milwaukee arrested Williams and Swenson in 1981 after she allegedly simulated a sex act in concert at a night-club

Charges of battery to an officer and obscene conduct against Williams were

Rocker Lee pleads no contest to abuse

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — Rocker Tommy Lee, accused of kicking wife Pamela Anderson several times as she held their baby son, pleaded no contest Tuesday to felony spousal abuse. The judge says he'll spend at least six months in jail.

Lee was arrested in February after his wife called police claiming the drummer kicked her in the back and buttocks as she held 7-week-old Dylan. The former *Baywatch* star had a broken fingernail and red marks on her back, police said. She filed for divorce within days of the attack. Judge Lawrence Mira said Lee will spend between six as 12 months in jail, followed by three years of probation for the no contest plea.

later dropped and a jury cleared Swenson of obstructing an officer.

She was acquitted in April 1981 of an obscenity charge in Cleveland filed for performing covered only with shaving cream and simulating sexual activity.

In November of that year, she was sentenced to one year supervision and fined \$35 by an Illinois judge for beating a free-lance photographer who tried to take her picture while she was jogging along the Chicago lakefront.

The band made several international tours, was once banned in London, and appeared on Tom Snyder's *Tomorrow* show, where they blew up a car.

Limbaugh in hall of fame

LAS VEGAS — Conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh was inducted Tuesday into the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

As this year's radio inductee, Limbaugh received the association's highest honor. It was presented at the industry's annual convention here.

Limbaugh began hosting his nationally syndicated show in 1988. It was then carried on 56 stations.

Now *The Rush Limbaugh Show* is picked up by more than 600 stations, reaching 20 million people a week and is the highest rated national radio talk show in America, the NAB said, citing information from Talkers Magazine.

Oscars moving to Sunday

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Oscar telecast, which stretched into the small hours on the East Coast this year, will move from Monday to Sunday nights and start a half hour earlier next year.

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, in announcing a new agreement Tuesday that extends its contract with the ABC network through 2008, also said "rigorous limits" will be placed on the amount of advertising.

"We'll be away from the show less than 10 minutes each hour," said Bruce Davis, the academy's executive director.

He called that unusual for special event programming.

Beginning in 1999, the ceremony will air at 8:30 p.m. EST Sunday. It will be preceded by a 30-minute program, also airing nationally on ABC, that will showcase the arriving stars.

This year's ceremony began at the traditional 9 p.m. EST Monday time

It stretched for 3 hours and 47 minutes into Tuesday.

In The Stars and Stripes

10 YEARS AGO

April 9, 1988 — Students stormed to U.S. Embassy annex buildings — Honduras and set them ablaze before they were dispersed with bullets, beatings and tear gas. At least five demonstrators were killed and 10 wounded.

20 YEARS AGO

April 9, 1978 — President Ferdinand Marcos declared that his wife, Imelda, and 20 running mates swept metropolitan Manila national assembly elections, allowing him to retain near-total control of the martial-law government.

30 YEARS AGO

April 9, 1968 — Coretta Scott King, the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., joined a silent march of thousands in Memphis, Tenn., in honor of her slain husband.

40 YEARS AGO

April 9, 1958 — A Strategic Air Command KC-135 Stratojet tanker established a long-distance record for jet aircraft by flying without refueling from Yokata, Japan, to Lajes in the Azores.

50 YEARS AGO

April 9, 1948 — Yale University announced the discovery in Baghdad, Iraq, of a ancient tablet 3,900 years old that contained the "oldest code of laws in the world."

'Black Jack' is back as Angels beat Boston

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)
— Anaheim manager Terry Collins noted that Jack
McDowell has had "one bad inning" so far for the
Angels.

Not bad considering

McDowell, a question mark after arm problems kept him sidelined most of last year, already has gone 15



ready has gone 15 innings for his new club.

McDowell pitched eight strong innings Wednesday night to earn his first win in almost a year, beating the Boston Red Sox 2-1.

"He was very good," Collins said, then immediately corrected himself by adding, "outstanding."

"I think Jack's going to be a great pitcher for us. We said it the day we signed him, if he's healthy, we've got a good pitcher," Collins said.

McDowell, who considered his injury-abbreviated 1997 season a fluke, doesn't seem at all surprised that he's pitching well despite a long layoff.

"It doesn't seem like it's been that long. It seems to me like I didn't really miss all that much last year," said McDowell, who had arthroscopic surgery on



AP

New York's Chuck Knoblauch jumps over Seattle's Alex Rodriguiz to complete a double play to end the game.

his elbow last May and then developed a bone bruise during rehab that kept him out the rest of the season.

Let go by Cleveland and signed to a free-agent contract by the Angels over the winter, McDowell's last win was a 7-1 decision over Toronto last May 7 with the Indians.

He scattered seven hits against the Red Sox, all singles except for John Valentin's leadoff homer in the fourth.

The Angel right-hander struck out six and walked one.

"I was just making my pitches," McDowell said. In other games Wednesday, Cleveland beat Oakland 6-5 in the completion of a suspended game, Oakland won the scheduled game 3-1, New York edges Seattle 4-3, and Toronto outscored Minnesota 9-6. Texas and Chicago were rained out.

Arizona goes deep, Mac doesn't

By The Associated Press

On back-to-back pitches, Arizona's Jorge Fabregas and Brent Brede did something Mark McGwire surprisingly has gone three games without achieving.

McGwire, who hit 58 homers last season and who homered in each of his first four games this season,

failed to connect for the second straight game at Coors Field. He did, however, have two singles and two RBIs as his St. Louis Cardinals beat the



Colorado Rockies 13-9 Wednesday night.

"Who says you have to score runs on a home run?" McGwire said. "That's the beauty of the game, you can score runs any which way.

"If somebody expects home runs every day, they're crazy.

"I'll take a bloop hit, an infield hit, anything to help the team win," he said.

The expansion Diamondbacks won their second game, winning at Los Angeles 3-0, behind the homers by Fabregas and Brede and eight shutout innings from Brian Anderson.

In other games Wednesday, it was Philadelphia 9, Florida 5; Pittsburgh 5, Atlanta 3; Houston 6, San Francisco 3; San Diego 6, Cincinnati 3. Montreal at Milwaukee and the New York Mets at Chicago were rained out.

Piazza breaks off contract talks with Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A day after being booed before and during the Los Angeles Dodgers' home opener, All-Star catcher Mike Piazza broke off contract negotiations with the team.

Piazza's agent turned down a contract offer from the Dodgers earlier in the week that would have been the richest in baseball history.

"I have instructed my agent, Dan

Lozano, to shut down contract negotiations with the Dodgers," Piazza said in a statement issued before Wednesday night's game against Arizona.

"I let the talks become a distraction, and for that I apologize to my teammates and our fans.

"For the rest of the season, I will focus completely on bringing a championship to Los Angeles and will not discuss my contract status with anyone until the season ends."

Dodgers general manager Fred Claire also issued a statement, saying, "We concur with Mike Piazza's decision, and we look forward to negotiating with Mike and his agent at the conclusion of the season."

Claire later told reporters the Dodgers still hope to sign Piazza.

Malone's elbow fells Robinson

By Associated Press

Karl Malone delivered a knockout blow to David Robinson and the San Antonio Spurs.

After his flying elbow knocked Robinson out for several minutes and sent the Spurs' star to the hospital, Malone went on to score 32 points Wednesday night in a 98-88 victory that gave the Jazz their second straight Midwest Division title.

Robinson got a concussion and was hospitalized overnight. Malone insisted the first-quarter elbow was unintentional, but several Spurs disagreed.

"He should be suspended," said guard Avery Johnson, who didn't play because of an injury. "You saw the replay. Two plus two equals four."

> Malone, one of the strongest players in the league, said he was just "taking the ball strong to the hole."

"It was a tough, physical ball game," said Malone, coming off a 56-point effort the previous night against Golden State. "It surprises me they thought it was intentional. The bottom line is, I don't have to play that way, and I don't play like that. ... I respect David."

However, Spurs rookie Tim Duncan warned of possible retaliation.

"If it gets to the playoffs and we're up against them, it's going to be a whole different game," said Duncan, who led San Antonio with 34 points.

Elsewhere in the NBA, it was New Jersey 117, Boston 104; Milwaukee 107, Toronto 100; Philadelphia 109, Charlotte 101; Orlando 95, Detroit 87; New York 83, Miami 80; and the Los Angeles Lakers 113, Vancouver 102.

Langenbrunner, Stars knock off Caps

By Associated Press

Jamie Langenbrunner needed a goal almost as much as the Dallas Stars needed a victory.

Slumps came to end for both as Langenbrunner scored the game-winning goal in overtime to give the Stars a 2-1 victory over the Washington Capitals on Wednesday night.

"That's the first overtime game-winner I've ever had in my life," said Langenbrunner following his 22nd goal of the season, but only his third in 18 games. "I hope this does wonders for me and for the team."

NBA

The goal couldn't have come at a better time for the Stars, who are fighting for the best record in the Western Conference, to say nothing of No. 1 in

the NHL.

The Stars had been in a 2-5-1

slump, and Wednesday night's victory gave them a two-point lead over idle Detroit in the West and a tie with New Jersey for the best overall record

with 101 points. The Devils, who lost 3-2 to the New York Islanders, technically hold first with more victories.

Elsewhere, it was Buffalo 3, Carolina 1; Philadelphia 6, Tampa Bay 1; and Anaheim 4, Edmonton 2.

Langenbrunner scored with 1:32 left in overtime as the Stars ended the Capitals' fivegame unbeaten streak. The Capitals had tied it with 5:54 left in regulation on Andrei Nikolishin's fourth goal.

"It's a big win for us," said

Stars center Brian Skrudland, who scored Dallas' other goal in the second period. "It's something to build on. They scored, then we responded. It's a sweet victory for us."

Washington is trying to hold on to the fourth seed and firstround home-ice advantage in the East.

Islanders 3, Devils 2

Robert Reichel's powerplay goal with 23.2 seconds left in regulation led the Islanders over the visiting Devils.

Time for Tiger hunt to begin at 62nd Masters golf tourney

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Davis Love III looked like he was staring down a 6-foot putt in a playoff as he contemplated the question. If Tiger Woods is on his game, is everyone else at the Masters playing for second?

"I'm not even going to answer that," he finally responded, his steely eyes making it perfectly clear that while Woods may own a green jacket and the tournament scoring record, he doesn't own Augusta National.

At least not yet. The 62nd Masters began today with the same anticipation as when Woods's 4-foot par putt on the 72nd hole fell into the cup for a record 18-under-par 270 and a 12-stroke victory.

Augusta National officials didn't narrow the fairways and grow rough, the kind of conditions that tamed the Tiger in other major championships. They didn't make it longer or add more fairway bunkers or make a rule that Woods had to play with one arm tied behind his back. There were a few tweaks to the course, but that's always the case. The message from the green coats simply was that if Woods can go even lower — and no one else can go with him — then so be it. On a course softened by a late burst of rain Wednesday that pushed starting times back one hour today, Woods set out on his attempt to become only the third player to successfully defend his title.

Marcus Allen to retire from Chiefs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Marcus Allen, who holds the NFL career record with 123 rushing touchdowns, will announce his retirement Thursday and move into the broadcast booth, according to reports.

The former Heisman Trophy winner will leave the Kansas City Chiefs and take a job as an analyst with CBS Sports, KCTV and The Kansas City Star reported. The Star reported in its Thursday editions that CBS planned to make an unspecified personnel announcement.

The Chiefs scheduled a news conference for 4 p.m. EDT Thursday.

"Out of respect for Marcus, the Chiefs have no comment," said team president Carl Peterson.

Allen's agent, Ed Hookstratten, also declined to confirm the reports.